

"opinion" communication field can be transmitted and received while monitoring the contents of messages issued in the "refer" communication field.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 14, as follows:

The present invention also enables the display area to be reduced, for example, in a chat system, by providing a message display concentrating and independently displaying the contents of messages transmitted and received in one or a plurality of common communication fields designated by a user. The present invention also enables issuance of opinions to the common communication field, to which such issuance of opinions is easily made, by instructing the opinion displayed on the message display.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 3, as follows:

The message display means 20 includes, for example, the cooperation request transmitting means 21, a notified message receiving means 22, a display processing means 23, a message transmission processing means 24 and the setting information storing memory 25.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 10, as follows:

The display areas 300 and 310 of the chat system 30 include tool bar display areas 300-1 and 310-1, respectively, for instructing, for example, various manipulations of the displayed data with a pointing device 12, channel switching instructing areas 300-2 and 310-2 for switching the channel for sending a message, main-channel display areas 300-3 and 310-3 for displaying a message transmitted and/or received by the channel (hereinafter referred to as a main-channel) for sending a message, message input areas 300-5 and 310-5 for transmitting a message to the main channel, user list display areas 300-4 and 310-4 for displaying a list of users connected to the main-channel, sub-channel display areas 300-6 and 310-6 for displaying the contents of a message transmitted and/or received by other channels (hereinafter referred to as a sub-channel) designated by a user and channel list display areas 300-7 and 310-7 for displaying a list of the main-channel and sub-channel designated by the user.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 6, as follows:

Hence, a user can designate which message should be displayed on the display area 200 for easy access.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 5, as follows:

In another embodiment, it is a precondition that all messages transmitted and/or received by the chat system 30 are notified to the message display means 20, while still being able to identify the cooperated IRC network and channel. In this case, the cooperation request transmitting means 30 displays an image urging users to designate the cooperated IRC network name and the channel name. The cooperation request transmitting means 21 then notifies the chat system 30, and the channel name designated by user, of the IRC network name. The request receiving means 31, of the chat system 30, registers the notified IRC network name and the channel name to the setting information storing memory 35. Thereafter, the message receiving means 33, or message notifying means 32, judges when the message is received, the IRC network and channel to which the message is transmitted and notifies the message to the message display means 20 via the message notifying means 32 for those considered as the cooperation object. Thereby, selection of messages can be conducted using the IRC network name and the channel name as the keyword.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A method of displaying messages with a chat client in an information exchange system for transmitting and receiving the messages, the chat client transmitting and receiving the messages through at least two chat networks, comprising:

designating, with the client, at least one of the two chat networks as an active chat network for receiving messages transmitted by the client;

obtaining, with the client, the messages, at least some of which are transmitted to or received from a first of the at least two chat networks, and at least some of which are transmitted to or received from a second of the at least two chat networks;